

Response
Serial No. 09/891,387
Attorney Docket No. 010803

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 2-9 and 11 have been amended, and claims 12-14 are added.

Claims 2-9 and 11 were objected to because of antecedent informalities. Applicants amend claims 2-9 and 11 to begin with the phrase “The apparatus according...” to properly illustrate an antecedent relationship with respective parent claims. Please see Listing of Claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is now solicited.

Claims 7-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants amend claims 7-9 to delete the phrase “such as displays and/or printers and the like are.” Applicants add claims 12-14 to recite that *said devices are at least one of a display and a printer*. Please see Listing of Claims. It is believed that the amended claims and the new claims are in full compliance with 35 U.S.C. §112. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is now solicited.

Claims 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants amend claim 10 to delete the phrase “in a connecting relation.” Please see Listing of Claims. It is believed that amended claim 10 is definite and therefore claim 11, which depends from claim 10, is also definite. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is now solicited.

Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kanekar et al*, U.S. Patent No. 6,751,191 [“*Kanekar*”] in view of *Wang et al*, U.S. Patent No. 6,587,970 [“*Wang*”]. Claims 2 and 4-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kanekar* and *Wang* in view of *Hashimoto*, U.S. Patent No. 5,815,668. Claims 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kanekar*, *Wang*, and *Hashimoto*, in further view

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of Applicant's admitted prior art ["AAPA"]. Claims 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Wang* in view of *Kanekar*. It is believed that the Listing of Claims on page 2 distinguishes over the cited art for at least the following reasons.

An objective of the above-identified application is to provide a relay apparatus having a duplex structure of a high line use efficiency in which it is sufficient to use one network address [p. 5]. Accordingly, Claim 1 recites a first basic unit "into which a peculiar network address is set" and a second basic unit "into which the same network address as that of said first basic unit is set".

The combination of *Kanekar* and *Wang* does not result in the claimed invention. Specifically, the *Kanekar* reference discloses routers with different IP addresses associated with each interface of the routers [column 6, lines 51-61]. In addition, *Kanekar* teaches that "multiple routers cannot have the same IP address for a particular interface" [column 6, lines 53-54]. Furthermore, although *Kanekar* describes that a plurality of routers share a common IP address, this means only that routers share a common IP address, and does not mean that identical addresses are set for a plurality of routers, as claimed in the above-identified application.

Therefore, the combination of *Kanekar* and *Wang* will suffer the same problem disclosed in the specification of the above-identified application, namely increased line costs. [see p. 4 "The system using such conventional relay apparatuses with the duplex structure as mentioned above has the following problems. First, since the duplex structure is formed by individually connecting the relay apparatuses 204-1 and 204-2 to the host computers 200-1 and 200-2 of the present system and standby system, it is necessary to assure peculiar network addresses, for example, IP addresses

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(10.1.1) and (10.1.2) for the relay apparatuses 2041 and 204-2, respectively, so that line costs increase.”]

As claims 2-9 depend from claim 1, they should likewise be allowable in light of the above comments in regard to the §103 rejection by nature of their dependency. Moreover, for the reasons discussed above, claim 10 should likewise be allowable. As claim 11 depends from claim 10, it should be allowable by nature of dependency.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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